

CLARKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
March 18, 2004 Budget Work Session 5:00 p.m.  
Board of Supervisors Meeting Room

At a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Clarke County, Virginia, held in the Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room, Second Floor of the Circuit Courthouse, 102 N. Church Street, Berryville, Virginia on Thursday, March 18, 2004.

Present

Chairman Staelin, Vice Chairman Hobert, Supervisor Dunning, Supervisor Byrd, Supervisor Weiss

Also Present

Tom Judge, David L. Ash, Tony Roper, Robina Bouffault, Teresa Dunham, Pam Lettie, Val Van Meter and other citizens and members of the press

Call To Order

Chairman Staelin called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

Resource Officer - Clarke County Public Schools

Anthony [Tony] Roper, Clarke County Sheriff, appeared before the Board to discuss the position of Resource Officer for the Clarke County Public Schools. Mr. Roper informed the Board that he had proposed a Resource Officer in his Sheriff's Department. He said that he was working with Dr. Smalley and she was in complete support of having a Resource Officer in the schools. Tony Roper told the Board that he had sent in a grant to help fund the position. Of the \$42,000 required to fund the Resource Officer, the grant will cover approximately \$22,000.

Sheriff Roper covered the five main objectives for a Resource Officer from the Sheriff's Department in the schools. These include developing and implementing standard operating procedures, decreasing illegal drugs on school property, school safety, providing visible law enforcement presence, and documenting, reducing unlawful acts on school premises.

Supervisor Byrd posed the question of the Resource Officer's involvement with truancy. Sheriff Roper cited the policies of other jurisdictions that classify truancy as a school issue that can be very time consuming. He noted that the Resource Officer might accompany the Truancy Officer if it is believed there will be trouble.

Supervisor Byrd queried the presence of Resource Officers in other schools and jurisdictions. Mr. Roper stated that in his research he had found that all other school systems have a Resource Officer under the control of the local Sheriff's Department. He told the Board that one of the seven deputies in Rappahannock County was assigned to the schools. Sheriff Roper further noted that none of the 13 deputies in Clarke County was currently assigned to the schools.

Sheriff Roper, responding to Supervisor Weiss' query, stated that a Resource Officer, uniformed with a gun, should be under the control of the Sheriff's Department. He reiterated that all other jurisdictions had Resource Officers in the schools under the control of the Sheriff. Mr. Roper stated that he has been working closely with Dr. Smalley on this and used care in the selection of his candidate, of whom she does approve. He has sent the designee to training with a school representative.

Mr. Roper updated the Board on current activities at Clarke County High School. He told them of an unannounced drug search with dogs the previous month. He stated that since January 2004 as Sheriff he has been involved with several assaults and drug possessions on school premises. Supervisor Byrd, noting these incidents, queried Sheriff Roper whether he felt that the situation could have been improved if there had been a uniformed officer in the schools. Sheriff Roper stated that the response time would have been better but that school personnel had done a good job in handling it. Mr. Roper, while noting that the school has a good security system including video surveillance, emphasized that a marked cruiser and a uniformed officer are significant deterrents in themselves. He opined that should be the standard, which Clarke County does not met without a school Resource Officer in place.

Chairman Staelin stated that school security was an issue and the Supervisors concurred that a Resource Officer is needed. Mr. Staelin said that he had spoken to Dr. Houck, School Board Chair, regarding a Resource Officer, an idea that Dr. Houck likes. However, Dr. Houck's position is that the school has a limited budget and the School Board decided they preferred to have a Truancy Officer. Mr. Staelin credited the School Board for its efforts to stay within the 5% cap.

Supervisor Weiss stated that the School Board knew that the Board of Supervisors supported a Resource Officer in the schools, which is the standard in all other jurisdictions. He noted that the School Board chose a Truancy Officer after the Board of Supervisors had made it clear they would not fund two positions and duplicate costs. Supervisor Weiss expressed his appreciation of the School Board staying within the 5% cap but pointed out they chose to prioritize in a different way knowing there were limited funds. Supervisor Dunning concurred stating that while school security is an issue the School Board has clearly chosen to focus on truancy.

Supervisor Dunning queried Tom Judge regarding the status of Zeb Brevard, former Resource Officer funded through the school budget. Mr. Judge stated that the School Board had eliminated the duties of Resource Officer and created a new position of Safety and Security Officer for Mr. Brevard, who is still in their employ.

Supervisor Dunning noted that a Resource Officer is under the control of the Sheriff in every other jurisdiction and requested that \$42,000 be transferred from the school budget into the Sheriff's Department budget to fund the Resource Officer. Vice Chairman Hobert put forth that the premise upon which the County operates is to allow the School Board to manage their own budget and determine issues as they see fit. Mr. Hobert suggested that Sheriff Roper convince the School Board and Eleanor Smalley that they need a Resource Officer. He said that he wanted the grant for the Resource Office. He further stated that he personally felt that a Resource Officer is important but wanted to honor the School Board's decision setting truancy as their top priority.

Chairman Staelin clarified that a transfer of funds from one County department to another would not be a debt reduction. He said they could fund both positions and still stay under the cap. Supervisor Byrd noted that the Board had been very clear that they would fund only one position that of Resource Officer and concurring with what Supervisors Dunning and Weiss said that the funds that had been dedicated to the Resource Officer in the current budget should be moved to the Sheriff's budget next year.

Supervisors Byrd, Dunning, and Weiss concurred that \$42,000 should be transferred from the school budget to the Sheriff's budget. Chairman Staelin and Vice Chairman Hobert dissented. There being a majority in favor of the transfer Chairman Staelin requested Tom Judge to adjust the FY 05 budget accordingly.

## FY 2005 Budget Discussion

Robina Bouffault, Boyce, expressed her concern to the Board regarding deficit spending, which the County has done for the past three years. She informed the Board of Supervisors that the School Board budget had not had a public line item review and urged the Board to look closely at the schools budget.

Supervisor Dunning stated that in the budgeting process there are many variables and that he was uncomfortable with deficit spending.

To assuage concerns, Chairman Staelin stated that due to the timing of the tax increase in FY 05 the County will have \$200,000 more in revenue, which will reduce the deficit. Mr. Staelin told the Board that the personal property numbers should be available by the March 23 Budget Work Session, which are anticipated to be higher for FY 05. Vice Chairman Hobert put forth that there will also be a carry over of revenue from FY 04. Tom Judge stated that historically the carry over is between \$100, 000 to \$140,000. Chairman Staelin requested Tom Judge add \$200,000 to proposed real estate revenue for FY 05.

Barbara Byrd noted concerns expressed by Social Services regarding a dramatic increase in wages being given in Loudon County. She urged the Board to keep salaries competitive. Supervisor Weiss opined that cutting funding for conservation easements, even if for salary increases, was not a good sign. He asked for assurance from his fellow Board members that they were still committed to funding the easement program. The Board concurred that it was still a priority.

### Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chairman Staelin adjourned the meeting at 6:57 pm.

### Next Meeting Date:

The next Board of Supervisors meeting is a Budget Work Session set for March 23, 2004, at 5:00 pm in the Board of Supervisor's Meeting Room, Second Floor of the Circuit Courthouse, 102 N. Church Street, Berryville, Virginia.

ATTEST: March 18, 2004

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John Staelin, Chairman

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David L. Ash, County Administrator